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Correspondence or Interview Solicited.

THE TORONTO GENERAL TRUSTS CORPORATION

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not fail to reap the greatest benefit. If the Commission had done nothing else, this alone would more than justify its existence.

5. THROUGH ITS ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOLARS.

The Commission has been mindful not only of the teacher, but also of the scholar, and has been endeavouring, with no small degree of success, to raise the standard of work done by the pupils in our Sunday Schools. With a view to encouraging more regular and systematic study, as well as with a desire to make the work done tell for the best results, a system of annual examinations on the regular course of study for the main school has been established. These examinations are conducted each Advent, the scholars writing in their own schools under the direction of

their own clergyman or superintendent. Certificates are awarded to successful candidates. Any school in any part of the Dominion may obtain the papers at the proper time on application.

6. THROUGH ITS LANTERN SLIDE EXCHANGE.

The Lantern Slide Exchange is one of the latest provisions made by the Commission for benefiting the local parish school. Realizing that the use of the lantern in Sunday School and other parish work is becoming more and more general, and also that many parishes which would like to use it could not afford the continual expense involved in purchasing or renting slides, the Commission has established a Slide Exchange whereby, on the payment of an initial entrance fee and a small annual membership

fee, it is possible to obtain the use of a large number of slides without any rental charges. The growth in the membership of this Exchange has fully justified the move, and parishes, both east and west, are to-day thanking the Commission for making it possible for them to use this very effective way of instructing their young people.

7. THROUGH THE FIELD WORK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

While, by reason of the extent of the field, it is not possible for the General Secretary to visit every parish, yet through deanery meetings and conventions, he is able to get into close touch with a large number of the parishes in various parts of the Dominion. In addition to this the chairman of the Commission and the General Secretary visit as regularly as possible the chief centres of the various dioceses.

As soon as funds permit, the Commission plans to put an Assistant Secretary into each Ecclesiastical Province and thus make possible the visiting of many more places, a policy which has the sanction of the General Synod of our Church.

8. THROUGH ITS HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

In the city of Toronto the Sunday School Commission has its head office. This office has now become a bureau of information to which any parish, school or individual may go for advice and help along Sunday School lines, and thus bring to bear directly upon the problems of the local school all the information available. This of itself makes the work of such value that it cannot be overestimated.

Do not these facts satisfactorily answer the question raised at the beginning of this leaflet? No one, who will weigh carefully just what these various lines of work really mean, not only to the Church at large, but to each local school, can fail to recognize that the Sunday School Commission has been doing a very necessary and helpful piece of work. **All that is required is for the local church and school to take advantage of the opportunities placed within their reach. It is evident that no organization or movement can compel a school or parish to adopt better methods, but by setting before them higher ideals and by showing them how these ideals may be reached the Sunday School Commission has endeavoured to lead the local school on to better things.**

For the reasons implied in these facts the Commission feels that it has a just and reasonable claim not only on the dioceses and the deaneries, but directly upon the parishes and the schools, and, indeed, upon all who are individually interested in the work of building up that institution, which means so much in the future development of the Church's work.

Much more could be done if only the Church would provide adequately for the needs of the work. At least twice the amount of money now being raised is required to meet the present demands. Here is an opportunity for the men and women of our parishes to make an investment which will bring in larger dividends than any other investment of the Church, and to show by their support that they value that institution which offers the finest opportunity the Church can have to mould the lives of those who are to be the leaders in the world's activities of the future, to help to shape the policy which shall govern such activities, and to build up the work of the Kingdom of God in a way that will stand the test of time and of eternity.

THE MARTIAN.

(Continued from page 635.)

Mr. Olboy was horrified. "Good gracious, no! He is only a man, as I am; one of the servants and worshippers of the God of us all."

"Indeed! But why, then, is his home so much more beautiful? Behold the well-kept lawns, the flowers, the neat fences, the well-painted and attractive building," exclaimed the stranger. "In Mars our temples are our most beautiful buildings."

"Well," replied Mr. Olboy after a moment's silence, "it is quite natural that every man will devote his time and money to making his own home comfortable and beautiful, while the church is everybody's business. Shortage of money is the real reason the church is in such poor condition. Besides, a beautiful building is not necessary to true worship."

"No, not necessary," said his companion, shaking his head, "but it is a sign of the love, enthusiasm and devotion of the worshippers. It seems to me both inconsistent and selfish that a man should spend all his time and wealth on beautifying his own home and neglecting that of his Deity, especially as, with so many sharing, it would be an easy matter to keep the church both beautiful and attractive. You would have me believe that your God comes first, claims first place in His people's affections. This neglect of His temple while they care for their own dwelling-places does not bear witness to its being the case."

Mr. Olboy felt that his visitor had spoken the truth, and, rather wishing to turn the conversation into other channels, invited him to see the interior of the building. For a few moments after entering both men stood silent. Then the Martian turned to the Rector and said:—

"Your church is far more attractive inside than I would have thought from the exterior. But are you not using the building at present?"

"Why, yes; every Sunday. What makes you ask me that?" came the reply.

"Because I noticed—you will pardon me for mentioning it—that it seems very dusty and untidy," said the Martian.

Mr. Olboy turned red. That is the fault of the sexton, but it is swept and dusted every Saturday."

"Why on Saturday?" questioned his companion.

"So that it may be clean and ready for the people on the Sunday."

"Is your God here on Sunday, too?" again asked the Martian.

"Our God is always here," said Mr. Olboy, wondering at the strange questions.

"Always here! And yet you only clean it on Saturday for his people. Is he not as important as His worshippers?" answered the Martian in surprise. "It seems strange to me that you should think more of cleaning it for your people than for your God. If he is always here, why do you not always keep it swept, dusted and clean?"

The Rector laughed aloud. "I am afraid," he said, "that we never think of it in that way. So long as it is ready for the congregation we are satisfied."

The Martian asked no further question, yet seemed to be greatly perplexed. Mr. Olboy began to show him through the church and to explain the various articles of furniture. After they had spent some time in looking about and comparing their respective religions the two men left the building and resumed their walk. For a time they walked down the main street of the village, the Martian gazing with interest at the stores and places of business. Presently he stopped in front of a brightly-lighted picture theatre, and asked:—

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